

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A method of assembling fence sections, the method comprising the steps of:
  - a. assembling fence pickets and rails to form a fence section;
  - b. positioning said fence section in the path of a banding machine; and
  - c. banding said fence section with a band from said banding machine such that said band forms a tight, closed loop that extends from a first one of said rails to a second one of said rails and back to said first one of said rails, thereby wrapping entirely around said rails and holding said fence section together.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said fence section comprises plastic rails and plastic pickets.
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said band is plastic.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said rails have channels therein for receiving ends of said pickets.
5. (original) The fence section assembled and banded as described in claim 1.
6. (currently amended) A method of assembling fence sections, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. assembling a fence section, said fence section comprising a first rail, a second rail, and a picket connecting said first rail to said second rail; and
  - b. wrapping a band around said fence section, said band forming a closed loop that extends from said first rail to said second rail and back to said first rail such that said first rail, said second rail, and said picket are secured together.
7. (previously presented) The method of claim 6 wherein:
- said first rail has a channel that receives a first end of said picket when assembled; and
  - said second rail has a channel that receives a second end of said picket when assembled.
8. (previously presented) The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of moving said fence section on rollers to a position to be wrapped with said band.
9. (previously presented) The method of claim 6 wherein a banding machine wraps said band around said fence section.
10. (previously presented) The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of transferring said fence section on rollers after said band has been wrapped around said fence section.
11. (previously presented) The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of shipping said fence section to an installation site after said band has been wrapped around said fence section.
12. (previously presented) The method of claim 11 further comprising the steps of:

installing said fence section; and

removing said band from said fence section.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 6 further comprising the steps of:

moving said fence section on rollers to a position where a banding machine wraps said band around said fence section;

transferring said fence section on rollers after said band has been wrapped around said fence section;

shipping said fence section to an installation site;

installing said fence section; and

removing said band from said fence section.

14. (currently amended) A fence section assembly comprising:

a first rail;

a second rail;

a picket connecting said first rail to said second rail; and

a band forming a closed loop that extends from said first rail to said second rail and back to said first rail such that said first rail, said second rail, and said picket are secured together.

15. (previously presented) The fence section assembly of claim 14 wherein said first rail and said second rail are comprised of plastic.

16. (previously presented) The fence section assembly of claim 14 wherein said picket is comprised of plastic.

17. (previously presented) The fence section assembly of claim 14 wherein said band is comprised of plastic.

18. (previously presented) The fence section assembly of claim 14 wherein:

said first rail has a channel that receives a first end of said picket; and

said second rail has a channel that receives a second end of said picket.

19. (previously presented) The fence section assembly of claim 14 further comprising:

at least one additional picket connecting said first rail to said second rail;

wherein said band secures said first rail, said second rail, and said pickets together.

20. (previously presented) The fence section assembly of claim 19 further comprising:

at least one additional band extending from said first rail to said second rail and back to said first rail;

wherein said bands secure said first rail, said second rail, and said pickets together.